of cleaning fabric into a container containing said solvent.

67. (New)The method according to claim 63 wherein said treating further includes removing excess solvent to obtain functional equilibrium of the strip with the solvent.

68. (New) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising:

dipping a cleaning fabric supply roll into a solvent; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the cleaning fabric supply roll.

69. (New) The method according to claim 68 wherein the supply roll includes a wound strip of cleaning fabric and the strip is at functional equilibrium with the solvent after the dipping.

70. (New) The method according to claim 68 further including removing excess solvent from the cleaning fabric supply roll.

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 6, 9 – 11, and 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 – 6, 9 – 11, and 17 have been rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

1. The title has been changed to be more clearly indicative of the invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification is now in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 5 – 6, 9 – 11, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter for which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to more clearly recite the applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully submits that as amended, claims 5 and 12 are now in compliance with § 112, second paragraph and therefore in condition for allowance. In addition, as claims 6 and 9 – 11 depend from claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that they are in condition for allowance for at

least similar reasons.

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is traversed by the applicants, however, solely for the purpose of expediting the patenting process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals , 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) is attached disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted that would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. 6,263,795.

4. Claims 1 – 6, 10 – 11, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki (US Pat. No. 5,509,353) in combination with Gasparrini et al (US Pat. No. 5,368,157).

5. Applicants traverse the rejection and submit a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. Applicants contend that there is no motivation to combine the '353 and '157 patents and further contend that these references do not appreciate the problem solved by the applicants invention. The '353 patent in combination with the `157 patent does not teach or suggest the subject matter claimed in claim 1. The '353 discloses a cassette cleaning apparatus that utilizes a complex pumping and delivery system for delivering a cleaning fluid to a sponge, and not a strip of fabric from a cleaning supply roll as the applicants claim.(See Col. 3, lines 51-67 and Col. 4 Lines 1-16). The '353 patent is silent as to cleaning a printing press cylinder with a saturated strip of cleaning fabric. In addition, the `353 patent discloses a complex system using supply tubes (78) and a liquid reservoir (77) to introduce the cleaning fluid to the sponge, whereas the applicants' system distinctly avoids the use of such complex systems. A distinct advantage of the cleaning system of the present invention is that it eliminates the need for complex apparatus, such as pumps, spray bars, manifold lines, valves and the like, especially as part of the automatic blanket cleaning systems used on printing machinery to introduce cleansing solvents or solutions to the cleaning fabric just prior to use.(See, Applicants Specification page 32, lines 10-15).

Similarly, the `157 patent does not teach or suggest the present invention. The '157 patent teaches a pre-packaged, pre-soaked cleaning system. The '157 patent teaches away from what the applicants claim by using a pre-packaged and pre-soaked cleaning system that is inserted into a sleeve for storage prior to use. (See, Col. 3, lines 55-68 and Col. 4, lines 1-17). The present inventions provides for less solvent displacement during storage and the flexibility of not requiring the use of a sealed and/or heat sealed plastic sleeve (See Applicants Specification, page 32, lines 20-25; page 24, lines 20-24).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance for at least the foregoing reason. Additionally since claims 2 – 6, 10 – 11, and 17 ultimately depend from claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in allowance for at least the same reason.

6. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki in combination with Gasparrini (`157) et al. further in view of Knaul et al. (US Pat. No. 4,860,883).

Applicants traverse the rejection and submit a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. Applicants repeat the same arguments previously made with respect to the '353 and '157 patents. The '883 patent teaches an apparatus for cleaning an endless conveyer belt, and not a cylinder of a printing press as the applicants claim. The '883 references does not appreciate the problem solved by the applicants and in fact teaches away from what the applicants claim by using a complex spraying device for directing cleaning fluid against a cleaning roller.(See, Col. 2, lines 1-30) As previously stated, Applicants invention distinctly avoids the use of any such complex spraying equipment. Furthermore, one skilled in the art attempting to solve the problems that the present invention solves would not look at the '883 patent since that patent has nothing to do with cleaning cylinders of printing presses and uses complex machinery that the present invention distinctly avoids.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

7. New claims 51-70 have been added to further clarify the present invention. Support for these new claims is found through out the specification and drawings, especially at page 17, lines 1-17; page 19, lines 5-24; page 20 lines 1-25; page 21 lines 11-17and page 24 lines 18-25. No new matter has been added. These new claims are also believed to be patentable for the same reasons previously stated above.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, it is believed that all of the claims as presently presented, are patentable, and that this application is now in allowable condition.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0140-4126US5.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: 1/23/02

Keith McWha
Reg. No. 44,235

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
(212) 758-4800Telephone
(212) 751-6849Facsimile

APPENDIX MARKED-UP VERSION

In the Title:

Please change the title from "Soak on site and soak on press cleaning system and method of using same" to -- A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press --

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising removing excess solvent from said saturated strip of cleaning fabric to obtain a strip of cleaning fabric saturated to functional equilibrium before [the step of] cleaning the cylinder with said saturated strip of cleaning fabric.

17. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein [said step of] dipping said cleaning fabric supply element comprises dipping at least substantially all of said cleaning fabric supply element in the container containing said solvent.

Please ADD the following claims:

51. (New) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising:

dipping a cleaning fabric supply roll into a solvent;

removing a strip of cleaning fabric from the supply roll containing the solvent; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the strip.

52. (New)The method according to claim 51 wherein the dipping includes dipping all of the cleaning fabric supply roll into the solvent.

53. (New)The method according to claim 51 wherein all of the cleaning fabric supply roll is removed from the solvent after the dipping.

54. (New)The method according to claim 51 wherein the solvent is a low volatility, organic compound solvent which does not evaporate readily at ambient temperature and pressure.

55. (New)The method according to claim 54 wherein the organic compound solvent is selected from the group consisting of vegetable oils, citrus oils, mineral spirits, aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents, and any combinations thereof.

56. (New)The method according to claim 51 further including placing the cleaning fabric supply roll into a cylinder cleaning system.

SUB C4

57. (New)The method according to claim 56 wherein the solvent is contained in a container independent of the cleaning system.

58. (New)The method according to claim 57 wherein the container is in the proximity of the printing press cylinder to be cleaned.

59. (New)The method according to claim 51 wherein the strip of cleaning fabric after removed from the cleaning fabric supply roll is at functional equilibrium with the solvent.

SUB C3

60. (New)The method according to claim 51 further including removing excess solvent from the strip of cleaning fabric to obtain a strip of cleaning fabric saturated to functional equilibrium with the solvent.

61. (New)The method according to claim 60 further including controlling a gap size between at least two rollers to regulate excess solvent removed from the strip.

62. (New)The method according to claim 56 wherein the cleaning fabric supply roll is wound on a cleaning fabric supply shaft.

SUB C6

63. (New) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising :

removing a strip of cleaning fabric from a cleaning fabric supply roll;

treating said strip of cleaning fabric with a solvent wherein the strip of cleaning fabric is at functional equilibrium with the solvent; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the strip of cleaning fabric.

64. (New)The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further comprises exposing the strip of cleaning fabric to a container containing the solvent.

65. (New)The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further comprises submerging the strip of cleaning fabric into a container containing the solvent.

66. (New) The method according to claim 63 wherein the treating further includes dipping the strip of cleaning fabric into a container containing said solvent.

67. (New)The method according to claim 63 wherein said treating further includes removing excess solvent to obtain functional equilibrium of the strip with the solvent.

68. (New) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, comprising:

dipping a cleaning fabric supply roll into a solvent; and

cleaning the cylinder of the printing press with the cleaning fabric supply roll.

69. (New) The method according to claim 68 wherein the supply roll includes a wound strip of cleaning fabric and the strip is at functional equilibrium with the solvent after the dipping.

70. (New) The method according to claim 68 further including removing excess solvent from the cleaning fabric supply roll.